

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: February 5, 2021

Beeper

The City Manager will be on KNND's Beeper show on Monday, February 8, 2021 from 9:00 to 10:00 am.

Free COVID-19 Testing

On Sunday, February 7th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm the Oregon Suldable Juntos Podemos with the University of Oregon will be conducting free COVID-19 tests at Bohemia School (721 South R Street). The testing event will occur every two weeks at the same location through August, 2021. Signing up ahead of time is recommended but not required. Results take 2 to 4 days. For more information visit: <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/osjp/registro/>.

Audit Committee Met

The Audit Committee met Tuesday, February 2nd, to review the City's 2019-20 Financial Statements and Supplemental Information (audit) with the City's Auditor, Gatlin Hawkins of Isler CPA. Members of the Committee present were Sarah Holmgren, Jennifer Morrocco, and City Councilors Greg Irvin and Kenneth Roberts. The City Manager, Richard Meyers, and Finance Director, Roberta Likens, also attended the meeting. The report contains a "clean opinion" on the financial statements and related disclosures. The Committee has fulfilled its responsibilities for oversight of the City's financial reporting. The City Council will consider acceptance of the Audit report Monday, February 8th. Once accepted, it will be placed on permanent file. Complete copies of the audit for Fiscal Year 2019-20 and previous years can be found on the City's website at: <https://www.cottagegroveor.gov/finance/page/comprehensive-annual-financial-reports>.

Safe Routes to Schools

The Safe Routes to Schools project continues to move forward. It is important to note that this project is really many projects rolled into one. The Safe Routes to Schools portion of the project really represents the work done to make the route to school for High School and Middle School students safer by installing new sidewalks and ADA compliant corners or ramps. Over 8,700 linear feet of new sidewalk will be installed with 2,337 linear feet new sidewalk where no sidewalk existed. 52 new ADA compliant corners and ramps are also being installed as a part of this project. Next week, weather permitting crosswalks and other pavement marking will begin. All this work is funded through the State of Oregon Safe Routes to School grant and local street funds. No adjacent property owner is paying for any sidewalk or ADA improvements.

A separate portion of the project includes reconstruction or patching of roadway. No roadway improvements are paid through the Safe Routes to Schools grant funding. All road improvements are paid through the City's Street Fund from local and state gas tax revenue and Federal Urban Aid funds passed through the State. The road improvements include over 3,890 linear feet of completely reconstructed road and an additional 2,337 linear feet of patched roadway. Fillmore, Grant and 4th Street in front of Lincoln Middle School are substantially complete. Taylor between 4th and 6th and 4th Street north of Fillmore are still under reconstruction. Weather permitting, Thursday and Friday next week paving work should begin.

An additional separate portion of the project includes 2,069 feet of new 27" storm drain line that replaced a 16" line that was identified in the Storm Water Master Plan as a top priority for replacement. With the new storm line the first water quality swale in the City's storm drain system to address contaminants in the storm water discharge before enter the Coast Fork Willamette River was installed. Replacing the storm line also required the patching of an additional 260 linear feet of road.

The final separate portion of this project includes significant sewer and water utility work for utilities located new the sidewalks or road surfaces. The replacement of the aging utility infrastructure was done to protect investment of the new surfaces. All water, sewer and storm drain work was paid through utility improvement funds.

The entire project – including all portions - is budgeted at over \$5 million including the \$1.2 million Safe Routes to School Grant. The project is currently under budget at an estimate of just over \$3.8 million.

Feel free to explore Fillmore, 4th in front of the Middle School and Grant to see the first outcomes of the project that will result in over a mile of road work and nearly 2 miles of new sidewalks. Traffic is still restricted on Taylor Avenue between 4th and 6th and 4th Street north of Fillmore, please try to avoid that work zone.

Coiner Basketball Court

All repairs and maintenance has been completed to the Coiner Park Basketball Court. The hoops and backboards have been repainted and repaired ready for re-installation when the Oregon Health Authority Sector Guidance for Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Fitness Establishments (<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2351E.pdf>.) allows for basketball. Currently under the guidance basketball and other sports defined as "full contact sports" are prohibited. When the requirements from the State change, the equipment will be installed.

Wipes Clog Pipes – HB2344

On Tuesday, February 9th the City is preparing to submit testimony to the House Water Committee in favor of HB 2344. HB 2344 would require manufacturers of baby wipes, make-up wipes, cleaning wipes and other personal care wipes to adhere to a statewide labeling standard that would require product packaging to clearly indicate that such products should not be flushed down toilets. Under the bill, violations of the labeling requirement would be enforceable under the Unlawful Trade Practices Act.

HB 2344 reflects one of the recommendations that was forwarded by the League of Oregon Cities Water & Wastewater Policy Committee. Despite local investments in public education and outreach, cities continue to experience clogs in wastewater infrastructure that result from

improper disposal of these products. Anyone is invited to provide testimony about the costly impact that flushed wipes have on our wastewater treatment infrastructure. Testimony would need to be received within 24 hours of the hearing – the hearing is on Tuesday, February 9th at 8:00 am. (Written testimony would have to be received before 8:00 am, Wednesday, February 10th.)

Cottage Grove Museums Open

Beginning Saturday, February 6th, the Cottage Grove Museum will be open on Saturday and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Masks, safe distancing and hand sanitizing will be required. Masks are required and only 6 people at a time are allowed in the Museum. The Museum staff and volunteers are ready and eager to share local history at the museum located at 147 North H Street - the corner of Birch & H. You can call the Museum at (541) 942-4269 or visit their webpage at <https://www.cottagegrovemuseum.com/> for more information.

The Oregon Aviation Historical Society & Museum is also open for visitors Tuesday – Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Masks are required and distancing limits the number that can be in the building. The Oregon Aviation Historical Society & Museum is the only museum in Oregon dedicated to collect, preserve, and restore Oregon related aviation artifacts for interpretive and educational display to insure the preservation of Oregon’s rich aviation heritage for future generations. Be sure to stop by the museum hangar at 2475 Jim Wright Way and see more than 6 pre-war Oregon home built aircraft that help to tell the story of experimental aircraft in the US. Aircraft ranging from a mid-wing Longster and a George Yates Geodetic as well as the Portland School of Engineering 1930 Cirrus Racer. For more information call (541)543-1068 or visit the Oregon Aviation Historical Society website at: <https://oregonaviation.org/>.

The Bohemia Gold Mining Museum is also open for visitors and welcoming guests on Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Masks are required and distancing requirements are followed to keep everyone safe. The Bohemia Gold Mining Museum is a living and expanding memorial to all miners, and to the history of gold mining activities in the Bohemia Mining District. The Museum is full of unique photographs, tools, ore samples, and other artifacts that provides a glimpse into the area’s gold mining history. Stop by the Bohemia Mining Museum located at 308 South 10th Street in the historic Boots and Sandals Square Dance Barn across from Bohemia Park. The Museum is also home to the Cottage Grove Historical Society. For more information call (541)942-5022 or visit their website at: <https://bohemiagoldminingmuseum-com.webs.com/>.

Water Main Line Break on Birch Street

Thursday night around midnight a 6 inch water main line split open on Birch Street near N. River Road. Five Utility Crew members worked through the night repairing the broken line and restoring water service to the homes near the break. The crew installed a new 10 foot section of 6 inch water line and completed the repair around 8:00 am Friday morning. Staff will work to clean up the street and will schedule repaving the repair site as weather permits. It is believed the 6 inch cast iron main line is approximately 70 years old.

January 2020 Building Inspection Services Report

For the month of January the Building Division of the Public Works & Development Department issued 41 permits, 1 for a single family home, and performed 116 inspections in Cottage Grove. In Creswell 15 permits were issued and 62 inspections were performed. In Veneta, 10 permits were issued and 28 inspections were performed. In Cobourg 4 permits were issued and 18 inspections were performed. Staff reviewed and approved 10 plan sets in January and 16 plan sets are in review or on hold for additional information.

Weekly Updates # 15 & 16 Southmayd Family (by Jason Bush)

We have some pretty good news for this week's update, however, before delving into that, it might be a good idea to recapture what this project is all about, what befell the Southmayd family, and how I became involved.

Back in February 2019 during the unusual snow, the Southmayd family was abruptly awakened in the middle of the night when four big oak tree branches broke off their trees and came crashing down upon the roof, smashing clear through the ceiling in two areas. After many months of negotiations with their insurance company to no avail, they hired a local contractor that attended their church to repair the home. He was licensed as a general contractor, but failed to get any permits. He also performed complete electrical and plumbing installations with unlicensed and unqualified individuals, with little to no experience. The Southmayds were forced to move 11 times in the 14 months it took to get the project to the sheetrock stage, at which point communications broke down and the contractor walked off the job. The original bid was for \$94,500, and the contractor subsequently tried to charge them \$160,000. They had friends and family help them paint the plywood subfloor, build 2x8 Doug Fir counters, install the plumbing fixtures, and throw up some particle board cabinets in the kitchen. They were finally able to move back in on Easter of 2020. That's when they started noticing things that didn't seem right, and it wasn't long until their nightmares brought them to the point of almost hopelessness. By chance they obtained my contact number and after a week of brooding over the situation, decided to call me. That was July 6, 2020. After going by the site and seeing the condition of the home, I was under the impression it could be repaired, however, after sharing this story with contractors, inspectors, and other building officials, and then meeting at the site for a thorough inspection, it was determined that it was not salvageable. They still owe about \$90,000 on the mortgage, so you can imagine when someone tells you your newly repaired home most likely will not withstand a hard Oregon winter, it is quite devastating to say the least!

I could not leave this family in their current situation as I was fairly certain that there would not be anyone that could help them with the situation on the level they needed. So, after discussing it with my son, the City staff and other construction professionals, I decided to take on the job of rebuilding the family a home that would be safe, secure, and designed around Jayson's current level of disabilities, as well as the possibility of eventually being rendered to a wheel chair.

The typical update starts with the status of the existing home as it relates to an official evaluation of the extent of damage to repair, as well as the overall structural integrity. Randy Van Camp, of Van Camp Construction has attempted to provide a specific and detailed report for the needed repairs to make the house safe and livable. He spent almost three full days going through everything only to determine that it is indeed a total loss, and would significantly cost more to repair than to rebuild. He started to itemize the work, but soon realized that it would simply not be feasible.

Likewise, Robert Johnson, P.E. of Johnson Broderick Engineers, visited the site on Thursday and the Southmayds and myself walked him through the existing home. He will be producing an official report on the structural conditions for the Southmayds, and they can present it to their lawyer, insurance company, and Mortgage Company as they see fit in order to bring them up to date of the current situation. His initial assessment is that it is a total loss and would cost more to attempt to repair or rehabilitate.

I stopped by Parr Lumber to complete the coordination of shipping and receiving from suppliers, to their yard, and then to our job-site. All the lumber from Frank Lumber and Rosboro is in process of being delivered to the Truss Company, so that they can fabricate our trusses. Tim at Conrad Forest Products is completing the cost analysis for the pressure treated sill plate material to determine what they will be able to do to help.

Perry Vos of Farwest Steel's Reinforcing Division got back to me and indicated that they do have about 100 sticks of 20' rebar. Some #4's and some #5's. He also said he can give us the tie-wire as well. That leaves us needing about another 30 sticks, which I indicated that we would be happy to buy from them so that I don't have to try and find it somewhere else, and then try to get it shipped separately, and then subsequently having to repackage it up together for job-site delivery.

After securing the 125 sheets of plywood for the shear walls from Eagle Plywood Specialties, I re-contacted Steve Swanson of the Swanson Group, who immediately agreed to donating the remaining 220 sheets of plywood for the roof. Thank you, Steve.

Brett Reckamp, Co-Anchor of Portland's Morning News, FM News 101 KXL, Alpha Media USA, contacted me on Friday, January 15th indicating that he would be happy to visit with us and see about getting the story on the air. He said he works closely with Lars Larson, but cannot speak for him, but will speak with him. Brett said he anchors the news, does stories, and has a weekend show that allows for long term interviews and airs on all of their seven stations. He interviewed the Southmayds on Thursday, the 21st, and I discussed the situation with him the day before. I will be checking in with him early next week to get a status, and to see if there is any follow up needed.

George, with HD Fowler seemed to be having a difficult time getting approval from his chain of command, and we were just not able to wait any longer, so I got ahold of Lon Miller, Operations Manager-Pacific Northwest Waterworks, Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. Thanks to George for all his effort. Lon stated that they and some of their vendors will provide all the supplies needed for a new drain field and has taken the lead of coordinating the materials delivery with Ken Eastlick of McKenzie Excavation and Paving, as they have worked with him previously. Ken had volunteered back on Veterans Day to perform the installation. Dan Wilson Construction and Excavation had also volunteered to help with the septic tank and drain field replacement, so were in good hands!

I spent an hour on the phone with Andrew Lourake, Lt Col, USAF (ret) who is the Veteran Outreach Director of Operation Second Chance's Tampa Chapter. As they go through the motions of setting up our website, the City of Cottage Groves website should be linked to theirs through the weekly update if I understood him correctly. They will also be editing, enhancing, and integrating the update with jobsite pictures, maybe quotes or comments as the project rises from the ground, and other informative information. I will check to see if we can do something similar with the City of Creswell's website. Andrew said that they work closely with Sinclair Broadcasting who they will see about involving. He also needlessly expressed his apologies for not having this done sooner as hoped, but he has been inundated with aircraft accident investigations this past week. One of the things we're dwelling on is a URL name which should be as short as possible, but descriptive as possible. Trying to keep it to four words, it may be "Veteran Southmayd Home construction" or something very close.

Another aspect of the new website will be a sponsor's page that will have everyone's logos displayed. Andrew indicated that all the companies that have a hand in this project should send us their business logos for them to upload. They prefer a high-resolution vector business image. So, please get those to us! Also, please forward your company invoices documenting the cost, so that we can run those through Operation Second Chance, which will allow for a 501(C)3 tax credit. Please remember to drop off your job-site construction signs at your most opportune time.

In discussing timelines of the septic tank and drain field installation with Ken Eastlick, it is usually done after the foundation has been placed, but can be secondary. Considerations are the weather, the county sanitation inspector, and supplies, as well as which materials and which contractors will be ready to mobilize first. I think we should all be prepared for our first jobsite contractors meeting in the next few weeks to determine what's best for all in the coordination of the foundation set-up, septic tank and drain field installation, getting power to the home from EPUD and to the septic tank pump, elevations, job-site conditions and access, and other possible challenges that may arise in typical project management--something I have little experience in. I'm hopeful that Jerry Valencia and Bob Buss of Bridgeway Contracting will be relieving me of some of the aspects of project management.

I think that pretty much wraps up our status. If I left something or someone out, please forgive me, and do not hesitate to contact me for any thoughts, ideas, or questions.

Yours in Building Safety, "and" Guarding Our Veterans.

(Weekly Update # 16)

It was noticed I didn't get the date changed on last week's update. As stated in earlier updates Operation Second Chance will be helping, and I just confirmed with them that their approaching the end stages of the web-site. If you haven't already checked it out, it is pretty impressive site with lots of information on how they help so many veterans in special ways.

Heidi Edris, of Knife River called me back after I left a message earlier this week, and she patiently listened as I explained our situation, and she graciously forwarded their Charitable Donation Request Form to complete. This donation request is for the concrete flatwork. I have yet to hear back confirmation on a few companies, and will try to follow up with them Friday.

I met Miles Gorman of Cascade Nut & Bolt, just outside the Cascade Home Center on Tuesday as I was inspecting an adjacent structure. He is going to check into the typical anchor bolts we will need for the foundation.

Jayson and Misty, and I received an email from Brett Reckamp, Co-Anchor of Portland's Morning News, FM News 101 KXL, Alpha Media USA. As you recall he interviewed the Southmayds on Thursday, the 21st. He sent us a link to the recorded interview, and he is really going out of his way get the word out there in the Portland Metro area!
Brett Reckamp Wrote on Wednesday, February 3rd:

Greetings Jayson, Misti, John and everyone - it's Brett Reckamp here at KXL in Portland. I went ahead and included anyone I thought might have had a little something to do with this connection.

I did connect with Jayson and Misti and got a great interview. I'm using it in a number of different ways including the long form version in my weekend show - some shorter news stories

for this afternoon and about a 3 1/2-minute piece in my morning news show tomorrow at 6:49 and 8:49. I also wrote a web story on my station website and tweeted it out on my Twitter and KXL's.

I plan on grabbing some MP3 sound after things air and sending them back and will also send out another email on Friday with a link to my show and some live air times for this weekend.

Also, on this list is one of my great KXL listeners Q Madp who is already working to try and create more exposure on this. Q is another vet who does amazing things for veterans all the time.

Shout out to my old pals Jim from Progressive and Luke from Lakeside as well. I'll be writing again Friday - and for those living here in Portland - be listening this afternoon between 4:00 - 7:00 for some short stories and tomorrow morning at 6:48 & 8:48 for a longer one. That's KXL - FM News 101.1 - Thanks! Brett

Brett can be reached at: brett.reckamp@alphamediausa.com and the Interview can be found here: <https://www.kxl.com/listen-volunteers-helping-cresswell-or-wounded-iraq-war-veteran-rebuild/>
A big thanks to Brett for all his time, energy, and expertise in getting the word out there. Lastly, I am picking up our approved plans from Lane County today.

Yours in Building Safety, “and” Guarding Our Veterans.

Quote of the Week:

Be a light, not a judge. Be a model, not a critic. Be a part of the solution, not the problem.

~Stephen Covey~